

Applicants submit that claim 17 relates to the infrared absorber and as presently written, claim 17 depends from claims 15/9/1. Since claim 1 recites an infrared absorber, there is proper antecedent basis and it is not necessary to change the dependency of claim 17.

II. Response to Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. Aoshima et al in view of Arias et al

Claims 1-5, 7-14 and 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Aoshima et al in view of Arias et al.

B. Aoshima et al in view of Arias et al and further in view of Oshima

Claims 6 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Aoshima et al in view of Arias et al and further in view of Oshima.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and submit that there is no motivation to combine the references as suggested by the Examiner with a reasonable expectation of success.

The Examiner recognizes that Aoshima does not teach a compound having a weight average molecular weight of 3000 or less and having at least one carboxylic acid group. However, the Examiner relies on Arias et al for the teaching of a radiation sensitive coating comprising a stabilizing acid, specifically benzoic acid to enhance shelf life.

Arias uses a phenol resin as a binding polymer. The phenol resin has a property in which the interaction with resins is reinforced as time advances, which causes low development efficiency. For this reason, carboxylic acid with low pKa is added to the phenol resin to facilitate development and improve stability over time.

However, there is no teaching or suggestion that would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to expect that stability over time could be improved by adding carboxylic acid in the case of other resins other than a phenol resin. Aoshima does not use a phenol resin. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine Aoshima and Arias as suggested by the Examiner with a reasonable expectation of success. Oshima does not remedy the deficiencies of Aoshima and Arias.

In addition, the development facilitating system between the present invention and Arias is completely different. In the present invention, since defective development occurs when a binder is adsorbed by the surface of an aluminum substrate, by adding a compound having a carboxylic acid group which is easily adsorbed with aluminum substrate, the binder is inhibited from being adsorbed into the substrate. Stability over time is thereby improved in the present invention.

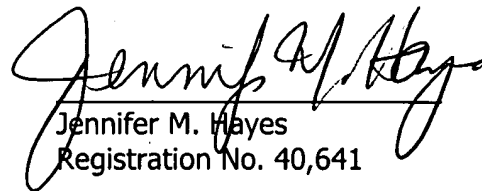
Accordingly, the present invention is not rendered obvious by the cited references and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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23373

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Date: August 14, 2006